**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies [including all Federal, State, and Local], Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, “Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection”. The project title is *Big Rock / Conaway Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.*

The proposed action consists of replacement of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) by constructing a new WWTP. Project activities also include the closure of the existing WWTP and renovations to the existing influent pump station. GPS coordinates for the new WWTP are approximately 37° 21' 18.2" N, 82° 12' 56.2" W.

The project area consists of approximately 19.8 acres; portions of the project area intersect with the 100-year and 500-year Floodplain, though the vast majority of project activities will occur outside defined floodplains. Similarly, less than 5 acres of known wetlands intersect with the project area.

The Buchanan County Board of Supervisors has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: This project must occur in the floodplain/wetland due to the nature of the project and both the geographic constraints posed by the area in which it is located. The only alternative to this project—a no-action alternative—would allow existing conditions to persist.

Permitting and consultation will be required to ensure that any and all mitigation and restoration measures will be undertaken for the protection of the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain and wetland in the project area. This project will comply with all state, federal, and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures and follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) for mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The Buchanan County Board of Supervisors has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland, and the Board of Supervisors has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and Buchanan County Public Service Authority at the following address on or before Friday, February 7, 2025: Buchanan County Public Service Authority, 1023 Old Benns Branch Rd, Oakwood, VA 2463, Attention: Brad Vandyke, Assistant Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8 AM to 4 PM at the offices of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission – 224 Clydesway Drive, Lebanon, VA 24266. Comments may also be submitted via email at CPerkins@cppdc.org.

Date: **Thursday, January 30, 2025**